



VOL. 1, N.6, APRIL

# Inside ...of OJJ

## Mission:

The Office of Juvenile Justice protects the public by providing safe and effective individualized services to youth, who will become productive,



**Dr. Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary**

Spring is in the air, although we've had some unusual weather. The azaleas are already finished but we're still experiencing chilly temperatures. That's how the seasons are sometimes. You just can't predict what will happen.

Spring is a season of change, hope and renewal. OJJ is experiencing change, like all other state agencies, and some are more positive than others. As we work through the loss of employees at Jetson, we also celebrate the fact that all three facilities are establishing the therapeutic treatment model. As we tighten our belts in anticipation of next year's budget cuts, we also look forward to opening a new facility in Acadiana. We are moving forward with Service Coordination in all the Regional Offices, and we are well on our way to implementing use of the SAVRY (Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth), assessment tool for youth.

Another positive change is our new face to the world. As of this week, our new website was launched on the world wide web. Staff have been working for some time to create a modern, up-to-date website that we can all point to with pride. It's colorful and full of information about our agency - who we are and what we do, who we serve and how we get our jobs done. We hope that it's easy to navigate and provides in-depth information. It's a tool that will be used by the general public, other agencies and our own staff. Launch Internet Explorer and take a look. We look forward to your feedback.

This month's **Inside Scoop...of OJJ** is full of information about happenings and events in every area of OJJ. I am particularly proud of **Monroe PPO Gary Hunter**, who saved two little boys from harm as they walked the city streets alone. Read the story on page 15 - many thanks to Mr. Hunter for exhibiting leadership and "modeling the way" for all of us, and presenting a positive image of OJJ to his community.

I hope that spring brings positive and pleasant experiences for each of you.

**"Doc"**

*Dr. Mary L. Livers*

## Soul Food

An inspirational column by OJJ staff



Patricia Williams

Jetson Chaplain

### WHO OR WHAT IS THE GREATEST – THE CREATOR OR THE CREATION?

The creation in itself is a reproductive system. It's stated repeatedly that the seed is within itself. The symbolism is this: The creation is a system that has components within its self, components to thrive, components to correct itself, components to adjust itself as needed or at will; components to change directions that have proven best for a period of time. Sometimes a system may change and a seed is salvaged. The system was spoken into existence to operate of itself with or without the intrusion of the creator. At which point the direction changes, the system may take on another form: You may ask the question; why? The answer is simple, this is as far as the Creator has willed the system to mature. We hear many times of endangered species; if the species becomes extinct, I think we can conclude that the species has completed its life cycle.

Some systems are much like a tree. Prior to being planted, the Creator predetermined the seed's life expectancy. The tree cannot exist beyond the life expectancy of the seed. When the first tree was spoken into existence, the reproductive mechanism within it was the seed; the seed was, is, and always will be a continuation of what that tree was from the beginning.

Some systems are much like the butterfly. Butterflies are beautiful,

decorative, inspirational, and move about gracefully. The butterfly begins life as a caterpillar, in great humility, but quickly soars in its element. The reproductive cycle moves very rapidly. In some cases the male butterfly dies soon after mating. The female usually lays her eggs within a few hours after mating and some eggs hatch in a few days. They may live a few days, a few months, or some more than a year. The butterfly serves its purpose and falls to the ground, the wind may take its lifeless body to a faraway land, not even leaving a trace of where it has or has not been but making a deposit in its final resting place.

Who or what is the greatest – the Creator or the creation? One entity cannot exist without the other. It is through the creation that you will come to know the Creator. It is through the creation that you will come to know the power of the Creator. It is through the creation that you will come to grips with the Creator's existence. The Creator cannot exist without the creation; without the creation there would be no Creator.

**I am appreciative of the opportunity given to chaplains to share our thoughts with others. I was laid off from Jetson in the recent RIF. – Rev. Patricia Williams**

## The Daily Motivator

### Change for the better

What you do makes a difference. What you think, what you say, what you take the time to understand makes a difference.

Life changes because you are part of it. And you can always make it change for the better.

Every moment, a new world is being born. You can make the world more beautiful and fulfilling than it has ever been before.

As you experience life, so too do you create it and direct it. The perspective you choose determines the kind of world in which you live.

A positive and purposeful intention leads to effective, creative action. And suddenly, you've made the world a better place.

What kind of world do you wish to inhabit and experience? Now is the time, with all you are, to make it so.

-- Ralph Marston

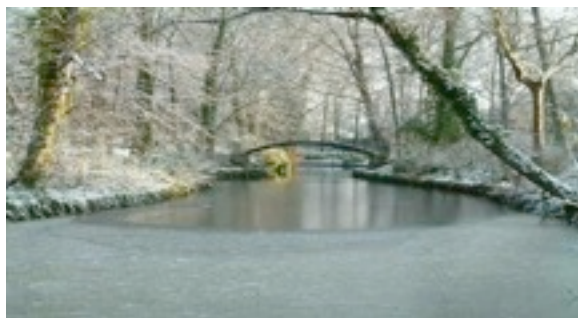
## A Parable for the Seasons

There was a man who had four children. He wanted them to learn not to judge things too quickly. So he sent them each on a quest, in turn, to go and look at a pear tree that was a great distance away.

The first child went in the Winter, the second in the Spring, the third in Summer, and the youngest in the Fall.

When they had all gone and come back, he called them together to describe what they had seen.

The first child said that the tree was ugly, bent, and twisted.



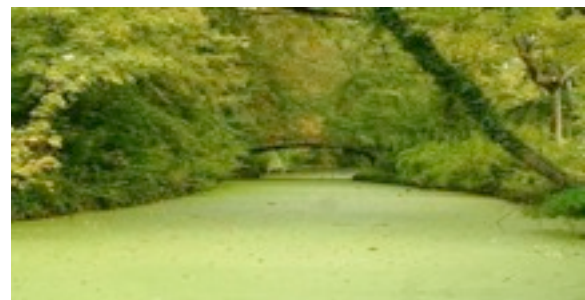
The second said the tree was covered with green buds and was full of promise.



The third child disagreed and said it was laden with blossoms that smelled very sweet and looked beautiful. It was the most graceful thing he had ever seen.



The last child disagreed with all of them; saying it was ripe and drooping with fruit, full of life and fulfillment.

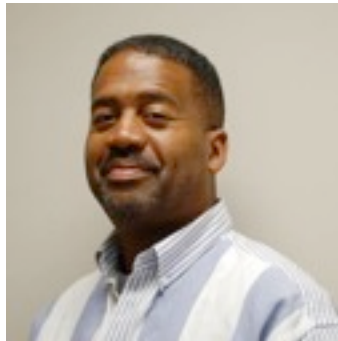


The man then explained to his children that they were all right, because they had each seen but only one season in the tree's life.

He told them that you cannot judge a tree, or a person, by only one season, and that the essence of who they are and the pleasure, joy, and love that come from that life can only be measured at the end, when all the seasons are up.

**If you give up when it's Winter, you will miss the promise of your Spring, the beauty of your Summer, and the fulfillment of your Fall.**

## Staff Spotlight



**Alonzo Jones, Jetson Recreation Therapist 4**

"Jetson Center for Youth is in my heart," said Alonzo Jones, Jetson Recreation Therapist 4. "I believe this place was created by God Himself as a safe haven for our kids. If we were not carrying out His mission and goals we could not stay open. The staff here works hard, and the kids are working with us. They know the importance. We cannot do anything without the willingness of the kids. The key element here at Jetson is the kids."

Alonzo has always wanted to work with kids. He has turned a personal interest in coaching and mentoring kids, into a satisfying career, working for the past six years with Jetson youth. He came to Jetson from Greenwell Springs Hospital-Springs of Recovery, a drug treatment center for adolescents.

"Alonzo is in charge of the Jetson Recreation Department and has done an excellent job," said Director Daron Brown in spotlighting Alonzo. "Alonzo brings a lot to the table - he is very creative and most of all, he has the best interest of the kids at heart. The youth are more engaged now. Whatever is

needed, Alonzo is always willing to do his part. The Recreation Department is the best I have ever seen it, and we are just getting started."

After graduation from Jackson High School, where he was on the track, basketball and football teams, Alonzo attended Wiley College in Texas, before joining the U.S. Air Force. He was stationed in Germany at Sembach Air Force Base for seven years, and worked on the flight line as an air traffic controller for fighter aircraft, helping to guide them to their targets. In his free time, Alonzo coached part time at the base youth center, only to have the volunteer job become a fulltime commitment after he had already worked his regular shift.

Today, Alonzo is still a volunteer coach in the community. After working all day at Jetson, he serves as the head girls' track coach at Jackson High School. "All the girls are my daughters," he says of the young ladies he has coached for the past seven years. He also coaches his son's AAU basketball team and travels all over the country for those games.

"I was a troubled kid myself," Alonzo said, "nothing big, just normal kid stuff. I had all the answers, but you know how it gets when those minor things pile up. The person who led me in the right direction was my track coach, Rufus Nesbit. He was my father figure or mentor, and tried to keep me under control. He always believed in me and pushed me forward."

"Working with our kids at Jetson give me a greater reward than it gives them," Alonzo continued. "I've learned to deal with my own children better, and become more patient. When our own kids make mistakes, we talk with them, and provide discipline. I treat the kids at Jetson like I would want my own children treated if they were there."

"Kids know when you truly care about them," Alonzo said. "They know when



you are just talking or when there is substance behind you."

"LA MOD is new for us at Jetson," Alonzo noted. "But the more you practice something, the better you get at it. We're good and we're getting better – we are going to be excellent. In a year, we are going to be OJJ's star facility."

In Jetson's structured recreation programs, Alonzo uses different activities that kids enjoy to help them experience team building, opportunities for fair play and learning the rules of the game. This system influences the kids to become more active in the LA MOD group processes and in their classrooms, he said.

As LA MOD is put into practice, some of the kids have had difficulty participating in the group process, Alonzo said. Recreation coaches were assigned to work with groups in the dorms, alongside the counselors and Youthcare Workers. As the youth learned more about the adults, they began voicing their opinions and opening up more.

"The entire campus is like a big family," Alonzo said. "The kids are like our cousins or nephews. My grandfather used to say that first you have to catch a fish before you can clean it. First, we have to gain our kids' trust, then they will open up. It's working out well so far."

"What Dr. Livers is doing for the kids is wonderful," Alonzo said. "For instance, she approved our getting basketball uniforms for the kids – you would have thought it was Christmas when they received their uniforms. We have never had this level of support before. We have a team atmosphere, and everyone pitches in when we have special activities. The Recreation Department has changed, because we are getting a lot of support from other staff. The Rec Department looks good because everyone is pitching in. People are

coming in to help on their own time. Like Mr. Larry Shropshire, (Security Major), who drives the bus for the kids to go to tournaments, and Mr. James Spears (Security Lt. Col.), who come in on weekends and stays to help feed the kids and prepare barbecue – they do whatever needs to be done."

Alonzo acknowledges that some friends' jobs were lost in the recent downsizing at Jetson. "That's a big concern, because it affects the kids. But they are dealing with things well. We're pressing on and getting the job done. We want everyone to know that we are working hard, and that professional services are being rendered on this campus. Jetson is such a closeknit community."

"We are doing so many good things at once," Alonzo said. "LA MOD is bringing us the opportunity to perfect systems that we already have in place. It's all about the wellbeing of the kids. We help them to believe in themselves and to become law abiding citizens."

"A lot of times, you can't just do the "normal" things," Alonzo continued. "Things have got to be different for our kids. A lot of them are intimidated in the classroom, so we have to find other ways for them to succeed. They may be good at other things, such as gardening, and we have to be creative and find those opportunities. Kids really appreciate the small things that we do for them."

Alonzo has used his contacts to make one of those different things happen for Jetson kids this summer. Jetson teams will be playing other AAU teams from around the state, he said. "It's important to make sure our kids are a part of the community."

"There are two forces – good and evil," he said. "Evil creates confusion and dissention. We have to be the good force in our kids' lives."

A native of Jackson, in East Feliciana Parish, Alonzo has lived in the area for most of his life. His wife, Nina, is a fifth grade teacher at Bains Elementary School. The couple has two sons, one of whom attends Episcopal High and the other attends West Feliciana Middle School. Both are avid basketball players.

Alonzo sums it up this way: "This job is more therapeutic for me than just a job. We're having fun here. I love it!"

## Transitions

### Coming and goings...

### Welcome to new members of the OJJ Family:

#### BRIDGE CITY

Joseph Allen – Security Officer  
Nicole Bordley – Director of Social Services  
Kemberly Irons – Security Officer  
Freddie Smith – Security Officer  
Joey Stevenson – Security Officer  
Stanley Wallace – Security Officer  
Latitia Watts – Security Officer

#### CENTRAL OFFICE – PROMOTIONS

Karen Brown – to Human Resources Analyst  
Roslyn Foster – to Social Services Program Coordinator  
Amy Vincent – to Procurement Specialist 2

#### ORLEANS/JEFFERSON

Barbara Cripple – Clerical Assistant  
Kimberly Dickerson – Probation/Parole Officer

#### SHREVEPORT

Richard Dukes – Probation/Parole Officer  
Alan Glover – Probation/Parole Officer

#### SWANSON

Kristy Besant – Corrections Cadet  
Christopher Harris– Substitute Teacher/ Dep. Director –Treatment–Education  
Warren Johnson – Corrections Cadet  
Alex Jones – Corrections Cadet

Johnny Leonard – Corrections Cadet  
Irwin McCall – Youth Care Worker

#### TALLULAH

Sherri Mathews – Clerical Assistant

#### THIBODAUX

Tressa Gros – Probation/Parole Officer  
Reshonn Saul – Social Services Counselor  
Myron Theriot – Probation/Parole Officer

## Alexandria Regional Office

### Employee Recognition

Each month employees vote for a peer whom they feel has made the greatest positive impact on our office during the last 30 days. **Cassandra Conston, Administrative Coordinator 3**, was elected this month. She was treated to lunch by the supervisory staff. Last month, **Angelic McCray** was chosen.

**PPOs Angelic McCray and Trinity Adams** are doing well in the Alexandria Police Academy. We are very proud of them.

Service Coordination training was completed recently. Everyone successfully completed the training.

The Firearms Requalification Training held in March was a great success.

### Condolences

**PPO3 Pamela Oakes** recently lost her father, Paul Rabalais. Please keep Pam and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

### One of Our Kids Pens a Poem

The counselor at Rutherford House sent us this poem written by **D'Anthony S.** after he was placed in "school suspension" for fighting.

### Who Will Help a Boy?

By D'Anthony S., March 11, 2009

Who will help a boy, when he's angry and mad  
 Who will help a boy, when he's down and sad  
 Who will help a boy, who's blinded by his past  
 Who will help a boy, the boy who wishes for a dad  
 Who will help a boy, when he breaks the law  
 Who will help a boy, when he's hungry and lost  
 Who will help a boy, when he hits the floor  
 Who will help a boy, when he can't take no more  
 Who will help a boy, because every step he takes, he slips and falls  
 Who will help a boy, when he has nobody at all  
 Who will help a boy, when he can't eat, can't sleep  
 Who will help a boy, when he only knows about the streets  
 Who will help a boy, who don't know what a blessing feels like  
 Who will help a boy, who only learns bad lessons in life  
 Who will help a boy, when the roads really get tough  
 Who will help a boy, when he says he's had enough  
 Who will help a boy, when he just can't do right  
 Who will help a boy, who's never seen the morning light  
 Who will help a boy, when he really needs help  
 The truth is, no one can help the kid, until he learns to help himself.

### Baton Rouge Regional Office

#### Congratulations to the following team players:

**RM Sue Larisey** - Supervisor of the Quarter  
**PPO2 Cobie Chauvin** - Officer of the Quarter  
**PPO Larry Aaron** - POST Academy graduate  
**PPO Darla Hood** - POST Academy graduate

Special thanks to **PPO Cobie Chauvin** and **PPO Wendy Sarnier** for representing Baton Rouge OJJ at the AMI Conference held

here. The PPOs were a "smash hit" with the OJJ version of "All Star Jeopardy."

March training included the PPCT 16 hour refresher, Firearms Training and Chemical Agent Training for transporters and officers.



Pictured is the group of officers who attended the Chemical Agent training - after they were pepper sprayed. Bottom row, left to right: PPO Katina Broden, PPO Lolita Howard, PPO Renee Barrios (Hammond). Top row, left to right: TO Jason Jones, PO Brandon Woods, PPO Leslie Jones, PPO Kristen Raney (Hammond)

#### Baton Rouge OJJ Reaches Out to Help

Baton Rouge OJJ came together once again to provide assistance to one of our families whose home was completely destroyed by fire. Together we donated clothing, cash and gift cards to assist this family in their time of need.

### Bridge City Center for Youth

#### Social Work Help Starts Here

By Roxann Tuircuit, MSW, GSW

March is National Social Work Month. During March the motto of social workers of Louisiana was acknowledged and the Social Service staff were honored for their dedicated service and unselfish commitment to the youth.

Staff were provided morning coffee and danishes throughout the month and a staff luncheon was held on March 27, at which plaques and certificates were presented to all Social Workers and Case Managers. Newly hired Social Service employees were given words of encouragement and welcomed to the BCCY family.

We here at BCCY continue working toward the Mission and Vision of the Office of Juvenile Justice. Our employees are strongly dedicated to "Striving for Excellence" and always remember the Guiding Principles, "Have Faith."

### Congratulations

**Yolanda Page, Food Services**, received a Special Training Award from the LA Department of Education for completion of Phase 1 Manager Certification. She has one more phase to complete to receive the designation as Certified Food Manager, and will then be responsible for handling school lunch program reimbursement.



Left to right: Food Services Director Alethea Bornes, Yolanda Page and Dr. Mary Livers.

### Religious Service News

In March **Youth Minister Jarvis B.** spoke at Highway Baptist Church in Vacherie, for its youth revival.

In spiritual preparation for Easter, BCCY hosted a moonlight musical featuring the Hunterstreet Choir of Alabama.

The mass choir of Northpark Baptist Church of Alabama performed at a musical. **Youth Alexander B.** opened our program with prayer. **Youth Danny S.** gave a sensational performance by serenading our guests with songs he composed. **Youth Jarvis Brown** closed with a prayer, and **Chef Ron Sonnier** served his delightful, luscious desserts.



### North Park Baptist Church Youth Ministry

We would like to extend a standing ovation and a big "THANK YOU" to **Chef Sonnier** for baking the desserts for these programs.

### Victim Awareness Week April 27-May 1

BCCY: "where the **Zulu Dormitory** team is supporting, reconnecting and evolving with our community." One of our main group topics focuses on "Victim Awareness." During the last week of March, all youth were asked to take part in recognizing "Victim Awareness Week" by brainstorming creative ways to express their remorse to their victims and communities.

As a result, the group decided that the most appropriate thing to do was to write a letter to the person they felt was a victim of their offense. Specifically, youth were asked to answer the following question in the form of a letter: if you had an opportunity to speak to your victim, "what would you say"? This task was spearheaded by Zulu Dormitory Group Leader, **Ms. Emily Williams**. Staff worked collectively in assisting the youth in a weeklong process, actively participating in evening groups, brainstorming ideas and finalizing their letters. Special thanks to **Mr. Gilbert Lofton**, Asst. Group Leader, **Ms. Charmine Jones**, Case Worker, **Ms. Ida Hammond**, Youth Care Officer, and **Mr. Jamal Causey**, Youth Care Officer-Trainee.

Here are some of the letters our youth wrote:

My Dear Daughter:

I'm sorry for what I have done to you, which was not being there when you needed me the most. These five months away from you have been the most difficult times for me. I vow not to continue in the path I was going that kept me away from you.



These are the things I plan to do to not only make life better for me, but for you and our community in which we live. First I have to take responsibility for you and be a good father. I also want to further my education and be a positive role model in my community to help other youth like someone helped me.

I hope you accept my apology in the spirit it was written.

R.T., Age: 17, New Orleans, Louisiana

To Whom This May Concern:

I committed a crime and now I'm at Bridge City Center for Youth. My old ways were I used to steal cars, but I have learned that is not the right way to solve problems. I have plans for when I go home to get a job and help my community by staying out of trouble and cleaning up around the community. When I go home I want to go back to school and receive my High School Diploma. I will also like to play football for the High School I'm going to attend and hopefully get a scholarship and make something useful of myself. At BCCY it is also taught me how to control my anger. I thought about the crime I committed and I wanted to extend my apology.

Sincerely, R.W., Age: 15, New Orleans, Louisiana

My Dear Friend:

I'm sorry for doing what I did in the community and this is the time for me to do the right thing. When I come home and back into my community I plan on getting my GED and get a job. I would like to give back to my community by going to Church and Bible Study. Me and my family. I have learned a lot while I being at BCCY. My counselor is a good woman. She teach me how to show a lot of respect to people in the community. I learned my lesson. I want to help people to do the right thing. I will talk to my brother about doing better than me and to show him how to do the right thing.

M.W., Age: 17, New Orleans, Louisiana

To Whom This May Concern:

I committed a crime and now I'm at Bridge City Center for Youth. Prior to coming to Bridge City Cent for Youth I used to sell drugs, but I have learned that is not the right way to make money. I have plans when I go home to get a job and help my community by staying out of trouble and when I go home to return back to school, working towards getting my GED.

C.R., Age: 17, New Orleans, Louisiana

## BCCY'S Option Program

BCCY'S Louisiana Option Program is designed to incorporate skills on how to secure and keep a job. The youth enrolled in the Option Program learn how to properly complete job applications, role play with job interviews, and periodically rate their co-workers' job performance.

BCCY'S Option Program is set up like a workplace environment, in which the youth play the role of employee and the teacher plays the role of the employer.

The youths sign in/out on a time chart, and self-manage their workplace skills. As a requirement for the program, each youth also designs his personal portfolio.

This spring will be very exciting. The youth involved in the Option Program will begin beautifying the campus with flower gardens in various areas. In past years, the Option Program implemented a landscaping project, where the youth learned landscaping skill and took pride in creating and designing colorful flower gardens, around the facility.

As the Option instructor, Miss Lillian Colar has created a detailed program designed to allow youth to work in various departments within the facility. The youth are provided with a weekly work detail form, from the departments that request their services.

When the youth go home, Miss Colar makes sure they take with them a job application packet, including current job applications and valuable information to assist them in seeking employment and keeping their jobs.

Miss Colar is in her 24<sup>th</sup> year as a teacher, and has been an instructor at BCCY for eight years. Throughout her years she has become very dedicated to the youth and to her job. "I take my job seriously, knowing that if I instill work ethics in my students' minds, once they leave the facility, there is a good chance they will gain employment," says Miss Colar.

During her years as the Option instructor, she has been successful in securing jobs for many students before and after leaving the facility.

Even after the youth go home, Miss Colar keeps in contact with them and continues to render her services, encouraging them to seek employment, and/or enroll in different vocational programs. Miss Colar believes that if she continues to guide and counsel the youth after they leave, it may decrease the chance of them returning.

## LA MOD Graduation



Pictured above, BCCY's 10th LA MOD class graduated March 20. Fifteen new staff members and **Corr. Sgt. Lynette Washington**, a seasoned staff member, attended four weeks of LA MOD and security classes. They are enthused and excited about beginning their careers at BCCY. For the first time our culinary class, under the direction of **Chef Ron Sonnier**, prepared treats for graduation and decorated the old dining hall for graduation.

## Central Office

### Congratulations

**Angela Arabie**, **ACA Accreditation Manager**, was recently awarded the Certified Corrections Manager/Juvenile (CCM/J) designation by the American Correctional Association (ACA). She went to New York to take a rigorous 200 question test that covered legal issues, general knowledge, human resources, internal and external climate, managing a department and offenders-management control.



Arabie

Angela

The ACA certification program is designed to advance the overall knowledge of practitioners in the corrections field and promote their capabilities to the public by helping to ensure that they are aware of the most current, innovative and effective approaches. Maintaining the CCM/J requires continuing education. Acquisition of the certification is the first step toward becoming an ACA auditor, who may perform audits of facilities in other states as they prepare for accreditation.

"When Dr. Livers was Deputy Assistant Secretary over CQIS, she presented a principle of leadership at every staff meeting," Angela said. "The first principle was 'know yourself and seek self-improvement.' Since I have been part of the CQIS team, I quickly realized I had lots to learn about our agency. With ACA accreditation being one of OJJ's goals, I felt it was imperative that I seek more knowledge about ACA. What better way to do so than to see an ACA professional certification."

**Carmen Leiva**, **Program Manager**, welcomed baby **Isabella Grace Pak**, born February 9 and weighing in at 10.5 pounds, in Okinawa, Japan. Proud daddy, Chae Pak, mommy, Stephanie Frisard Pak, and big brother, Nathan Pak welcomed the precious baby into their lives. This makes **Carmen** a three-time grandmother.

### UW/Morale Committee Raises Money as well as Morale

The United Way/Morale Committee has been busy cooking, selling goodies and raising money for several causes. Committee members include **Katherine Abrams**, **Marvel Adams**, **Clarett Blount**, **Anne Carter**, **Suzie Durrett**, **Nita Franklin-Shanklin**, **Nykisha Franklin**, **Shirley**

Jackson, Kimberly Jones, Katie Kirkpatrick, Phyllis Martello, Gail Miller, Glenda Ratcliff, Terri Scott, and Shaeki Shanklin.

Central Office raised \$649 for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure by selling yummy ice cream sundaes, raffle tickets, oversized pink ribbons and Nieman Marcus cookies. All these activities were hosted by the United Way/Morale committee.

"We wanted to do something to share our blessings with our secure care girls," said **Nita Franklin-Shanklin**. The Morale Committee sold tickets for a wonderful Easter luncheon. The committee received a special donation for Easter baskets for the girls, and a portion of the proceeds of the luncheon was designated for the Easter baskets. Committee members assembled the baskets that were given to the girls in the three secure programs.



**The Morale Committee serving the Easter luncheon.**



**Pictured are the Easter baskets for the girls in secure care, made by the United Way/Morale Committee.**

### Condolences

Condolences to **Angela Arabie, ACA Accreditation Manager**, on the recent loss of her father, Elmo Martinez. Please keep

Angela and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

### CO and BR-OJJ Treatment & HR Staff Provide Assistance to JCY Employees

**By Annette Arthur, Director of Treatment**

In an effort to provide employment assistance and stress management for Jetson staff who were impacted by the layoff, we conducted a Critical Incident Stress (CISD) Debriefing and employment assistance workshop for several days. Two Social Services staff members from Baton Rouge OJJ, **Jennifer Anderson** and **Yolanda Latimer**, were on hand to help conduct the group sessions. These two ladies had been trained in CISD. Several people attended the first day, and they were able to share their thoughts and feelings, and work through the feelings associated with their job loss. Handouts and suggestions were given to them on job loss and grief, stress management techniques and with coping with this loss. They seemed appreciative and appeared to benefit from the encounter. We provided them with resources where they could receive medical and mental health care free or based on a sliding scale fee.

The second day, **HR Director Gwen Jones** and the Baton Rouge OJJ ladies were on hand to assist. Several people who had not attended the first day were there, and they had the opportunity to share their feelings concerning their loss. They received information about coping with the situation. Ms. Jones provided information on Civil Service rules, eligibility for other positions, and unemployment benefits. **HR Analyst Judith Fontenot** provided information and handouts on retirement issues and COBRA health insurance.

On the third day, **Jennifer Anderson** and **Yolanda Latimer** from Baton Rouge OJJ conducted a workshop on Stress Management. Ten staff attended that day. From my observations, the participants benefited a great deal. They participated in creative projects during the workshop that provided ideas on how to cope with their stress. They received journals and

motivational CDs; **Ms. Anderson** and **Ms. Latimer** paid for these items themselves.

On one day, only one person attended the workshop, and all four HR staff who were there worked with her to assist in her job search. The internet was accessed and she was taught how to apply for several jobs on line. **CO Instructor Ruby Dixon** was there to provide information on teaching positions available in three parishes. One lady who had attended faithfully was interested in making a career change, to become a para educator. **Ms. Dixon** actually arranged for a job interview for her that very day! The lady left the workshop headed straight for a job interview in her desired field of work.

**Ms. Latimer** and **Ms. Anderson** expressed to me that they felt it was a privilege to be able to assist the staff laid off at Jetson. The participants seemed to be equally grateful and even requested these ladies continue to come by to check on their job search progress. **Ms. Latimer** and **Ms. Anderson** dropped by on several occasions to give the participants encouragement. The ladies were great, and I thank them for doing such a wonderful job in assisting the staff during this difficult period.

## Hammond Regional Office

### Congratulations

**Administrative Coordinator 4 Courtney Pegues** was selected as the **Support Employee of the Year**. Many thanks for all her hard work to keep our office running smoothly.

### Masters Intern to begin working at Hammond OJJ

**Regional Manager Julie Eudy** is pleased that **Karolyn Harrell**, a graduate student at Nova Southeastern University Criminal Justice Institute, in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, will begin a practicum internship in May. Julie noted this will be their first Masters in Juvenile Justice intern.

Hammond OJJ celebrated **Administrative Coordinator 4 Sharon Plamann's** retirement and many years of state services

by wearing purple (Sharon's favorite color) and hosting a retirement party.

**Pictured below at the retirement festivities are:** First row from left to right: **Wendy Clark, Stephanie Michetti, Opal West, Christy Ford, Tiffany James.** Second row from left to right: **Leigh Calmes, Courtney Pegues, Julie Eudy, Sharon Plamann, Janice Lewis, Danielle August.** Third row from left to right: **Lori Wagner, Penny Buniff, Terri Spencer, Carrie Austin, Dana May, Kasey Wall, Renee Barrois, Matt Bauer, Dawnita Hodge.** Fourth row from left to right: **Sandi August, Elisabeth Holzinger, Jessica Freeman, Amy Johnson, Shirley Verberne, Shawn Kelley, Mark Benton, Brett Netto, Mark Davis, Jerelmy Carr, Johnny Prentice.**



## Jetson Center for Youth

### Bishop Samuel Butler Meets Gov. Jindal at the Governor's Mansion

**Para Educator Bishop Samuel Butler** was a guest at the Governor's Mansion recently. He is the Bishop at St. Luke Christian Center in Plaquemine. Below is a letter sent to **Director Daron Brown** from the Senate Chaplain:

Greetings Mr. Brown:

Governor Jindal recently invited more than 20 local pastors to a luncheon at the Mansion with the goal of building relationships to strengthen our State's commitment to families. Among those attending was **Bishop Sam Butler**. A picture is attached.

I want to thank you for allowing Bishop Butler to join us. His insight and perspective are invaluable. On occasion it



would be just as advantageous to have him join us at the State Capitol to help strengthen our relationships with the State Senate. Your attendance there would be an added pleasure so please accept this invitation to visit the Senate during the next session, April-June.

Finally, I would love to come and see your place of service. Bishop Sam reports on the incredible impact your team is having on these young men and I would like to see for myself. Serving as a volunteer sponsor at LCIW for more than 25 years, talking about the Louisiana Corrections Dept., is part of my life message.

Thanks again for loaning us Bishop Sam Butler.

Michael F. Davis  
Chaplain to Louisiana Senate  
Director of PRC Compassion



**Bishop Samuel Butler and Governor Bobby Jindal**

### Grant Received for Vocational Training

**Policy Planner Pam Wall** notes that a recent grant from the LA Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE) will fund a new vocational training program at Jetson. Designed and created by private industry, the C-tech training lab will provide three hours a day of hands-on training for entry level technician jobs. The initial class will target 10 to 12 youth who have obtained their GEDs and is scheduled to begin in May.

The C-tech program offers a 12-week training program that can lead to entry level jobs with television cable companies, phone companies, Direct-TV and satellite installers, as well as companies working in

entertainment systems and computer system networking.

Students will gain the skills sets needed to work in the network cabling industry. Four short courses, each related to the next, will be available: Introduction to Telecommunications; Copper-based Systems; Fiber-optic Based Systems and Introduction to the Telecommunications Business, which will cover soft skills needed to access and retain jobs in the communications industry.

### JCY is the OJJ Basketball Champ

Jetson hosted a basketball tournament with teams from SCCY and BCCY. "Our youth had a great time and they really enjoyed themselves," said Director Daron Brown. "Jetson won the championship, SCCY came in second and BCCY finished third. But at the end of the day, our kids and staff had fun."

### Lafayette/Opelousas Regional Office

**PPOs Kevin Broussard, Chase Cappel, and Tracy Flores** represented OJJ at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Criminal Justice Career Fair in March. They handed out OJJ logo items and informational brochures, and answered the numerous questions posed by prospective graduates and potential applicants.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to **PPOs Cassy Gardiner, Bobby Jesset, and Chris Mahler**, who graduated from the St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Office POST Academy in March. All three walked away with awards. **PPO Gardiner** was elected Class President, **PPO Jesset** won the award for Best Notebook, and **PPO Mahler** won the award for Hardest Worker.

Two of the debaters on the Abbeville High School Debate Team, on which **PPO Kevin Broussard** volunteers as a coach, qualified for the Catholic Forensic League National Tournament. Way to go!

## We Run, We have Fun, We Race for the Cure

The Acadiana Region of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation held its Race For The Cure in downtown Lafayette in March. **28 members of the Lafayette OJJ staff**, as well as family and friends, were among the 9,400 participants who competed in the 1 Mile Walk and the 5K Race as Team Mina, in honor of **PPO Mina Travis**, who is a breast cancer survivor. Some walked... some ran... but all crossed the finish line. The **Honorable Thomas Duplantier**, 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, was even a proud Team Mina member. The weather was absolutely gorgeous, and after the race, the team enjoyed delicious food donated by local businesses and danced to the music provided by local entertainers. **PPO Jody Osmer** was the top finisher of Team Mina in the 5K race.



Lafayette OJJ's Team Mina

## Staff Present at Juvenile Justice Seminar

**Regional Manager Sharon Guillory**, **Social Worker Maria Menard**, **Education Specialist Lou B. Gloston**, and **PPO Chase Cappel** took time out of their weekend March 21 to be presenters at the "Too Much, Too Many At Risk: Juvenile Justice's Opportunities for Intervention, Education, and Prevention" educational seminar at the Holiday Inn in Lafayette. **RM Guillory** presented "Information Sharing and Integrated Juvenile Justice Information System." **Specialist Gloston** presented "Education-Juvenile Justice Partnership," and **Social Worker Menard** and **PPO Cappel** presented "Community Based Services Evidence Based Practices."

## A success story from Lafayette OJJ

**Youth Courtland F.** of Morgan City spent 18 months in custody, after being

adjudicated delinquent for aggravated burglary. By taking advantage of the services offered to him by OJJ, as well as making use of the motivation and guidance provided by St. Mary Parish **PPO Karla Meranto**, the youth has made great strides to turn his life around, and is now set to graduate with honors from Morgan City High School.

## Lake Charles Regional Office

**Program Specialist Lane Plache** attended the Southwest LA Marine Institute's graduation ceremony in February. Eleven youth completed the SLMI program, and three of them received their GEDs. The other eight will return to their respective schools. Approximately 20 parents, family and friends attended. Lake Charles OJJ was fortunate that Lane could attend and represent our office since there was so much going on that day (Court, YCP interviews/transport, and CSOM).

In March, **Senator Willie Mount** and several other dignitaries visited Lake Charles and toured the Southwest Louisiana Marine Institute Day Treatment Program's new campus. **PPS Ken Vidrine** represented Lake Charles OJJ at the event.

## Congratulations

**PPO3 Delisa Clark's** professionalism was recognized in March by the Drug Court Team, who was extremely complimentary of Delisa's detailed PDI (pre-disposition investigation), which was part of a referral packet. Their comments included "I didn't know the probation officers put so much work into something like that", "It was very thorough and helpful in our initial intake process", and "You obviously work with some really good people over there." Kudos to Delisa!

**PPO Angela Stevens** graduated from the POST Academy in March. She was recognized as the most improved in the area of physical fitness. We are so glad to have her back. Congratulations, Angie!



**PPS Melissa Cross, left, congratulates POST graduate Angie Stevens, right.**

**PPO3 Karli Pullard** received kudos and was recognized by **Judge Guy Bradberry** of the 14th JDC for excellence while serving on the Drug Court. Karli's work ethic and positive representation of our office paved the way for creation of two permanent OJJ slots in the Calcasieu Parish's Drug Court Program. This program was previously exclusive to the parish's juvenile probationers.

**PPO2 Rebecca Harmon** volunteered her time on Saturday mornings, for a period of six weeks, to assist with the CPSO Junior Deputy Program. She received a Certificate of Appreciation from **Sheriff Tony Mancuso**. We appreciate your service to the community, Rebecca!

**Social Worker Janice Bray Manuel** was recognized for representing Lake Charles OJJ well on the ISC team. The OCDD representative made note of Janice's extraordinary efforts, recognized her work ethic, and complimented her commendable performance, saying that Janice "was very instrumental in the successful outcome (of the ISC). ... She was able to put the parent at ease about the difficult task ahead and made her feel good about the decisions (the parent) was making." We are honored to work alongside Janice.

**PPO3 Fred Fontenot** and his wife, **Tonya Fontenot**, a State Police dispatcher, sold BBQ plate lunches in March to support the State Police's annual fund raiser for cancer. Many Lake Charles OJJ employees contributed. We enjoyed a nice lunch and even better dessert!

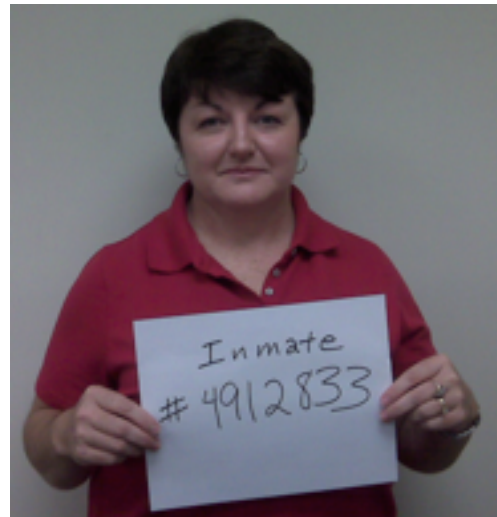
**Regional Manager Ann Vick, PPS Melissa Cross, PPO Karli Pullard, PPO Rebecca Harmon, Social Worker Janice Manuel,**

**PPO Jeff Haley, PPO Garrick Chambers, PPO Hollie Comeaux, (former) PPO Todd Younger, and Administrative Coordinator Earline Pierce** participated in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters' Bowl for Kids' Sake annual March fund raiser at Petro Bowl. Each bowler donated a minimum of \$50 to participate. Our OJJ team was joined by family members **Turner Vick, Jonn Richard, Jackson Cross, and Ashley Manuel**.



**Lake Charles OJJ staff at the Bowl for Kids Sake fundraiser.**

**Social Worker Janice Bray-Manuel** volunteered to be locked up behind bars to help Jerry's Kids© and MDA (the Muscular Dystrophy Association) in March. She had a \$1000 goal to raise for bail money!



**"Inmate" Janice Bray-Manuel had to raise her bail for a good cause.**

## Monroe Regional Office

**PPO Gary Hunter Cited for Saving Two Small Children**

**PPO3 Gary Hunter** is a hero to two lost little boys who were found wandering alone in the streets of Monroe. Gary was working the field when he saw the two toddlers walking hand-in-hand down the side of a busy city street. We are very proud of Gary for stopping to care for these children, and keeping them safe. In the words of Officer Hunter, "I am thankful for God placing me in a position to help those babies."

**Deputy Assistant Secretary Carolyn Lewis** said, "I just learned of Gary's actions, observing two toddlers walking in the middle of the street, unaccompanied by an adult. I understand he took these two toddlers to a nearby school and called local law enforcement. There is no doubt that Gary's actions prevented these children from being harmed. The local newspaper reported the mother as being home asleep and not knowing the whereabouts of the children."

The Monroe News-Star reported that the mother was charged with desertion. The story said "According to an arrest affidavit, a probation officer said he found two 2-year-old boys walking in the road...after searching for the boys' parents for more than an hour, the officer found the mother at her home address. She told officers she was asleep and unaware her children were missing. She was arrested, and booked at Ouachita Correctional Center."

"I realize 'thank you' is not necessary, but I do want to thank Gary Hunter for his actions and I am proud to have him on our team," **Ms. Lewis** said.

**Regional Manager Patty Newman** awarded Gary the **Monroe OJJ First Annual Giraffe Award** for sticking his neck out to help someone else. Gary was given a stuffed giraffe.

Thanks to **Gary Hunter** from all of OJJ for taking care of the little boys and keeping them safe. Gary's actions are an inspiration to us all.

### Congratulations

Monroe OJJ congratulates their **Employees of the Quarter**:

**Administrative Coordinator 3 Kashka Flintroy**, **Support Staff of the Quarter**.

**PPS Gail Wilson**, **Supervisor of the Quarter**, for the last quarter of 2008.

**PPO3 Orlando Davis** participated in a BI (Behavioral Intervention) update/training in Baton Rouge in March.

Monroe OJJ said good-bye to one of our PPOs at the end of March. **PPO Joe Black** transferred to the Natchitoches OJJ office. He will be greatly missed.

### Natchitoches Regional Office

**Neighborhood Place** in Sabine Parish is on schedule and is set to be operational on July 1. Neighborhood Place is a multi-agency initiative that will provide a one-stop location for people needing services from local and state agencies.

Natchitoches OJJ will provide staff to perform the following services:

- intake services with the possibility of diversion to keep youth out of formal court proceedings
- after court, meet with youth and parents to obtain information on the case
- youth and parent group orientation for new probationers
- routine office visits and/or monthly contacts with youth and parents

### Welcome Back

We would like to welcome back **PPO2/J Joseph Black**, who returned to Natchitoches OJJ at the end of March.

### New Orleans/Jefferson Regional Office

**PPO3 Stanley Schofield** spoke at Craig Elementary School and Leon Godchaux Accelerated Program/Pre-GED for a rally encouraging youth to face the challenges of the LEAP exam, as well as the challenges of the world, specifically assuming their responsibilities. Stanley also spoke about self esteem at a retreat for an organization called Transformation, and is scheduled for a presentation at Rivarde Detention Center entitled "What Will it Take for You to



Understand? emphasizing consequences of negative behavior.

## YEP Kids Have a Blast Learning to Swim

One of our providers, YEP (Youth Empowerment Project), partnered with Wild and Water Swimming to provide swimming lessons for our kids this summer. Below is a letter from YEP Director Melissa Sawyer.

Dear Friends and Supporters:

Thanks to a new partnership with Wild and Water Swimming (<http://www.wildandwater.org/>), our CBM kids had their first swimming lesson. Our kids had a blast and they will continue these lessons throughout the spring! I wanted to be sure to share this exciting opportunity and some of my favorite pictures with you! There are more pictures in the gallery on our website!

Thanks for your continued support of YEP and our programming!

Best,  
Melissa Sawyer  
Executive Director, Youth Empowerment Project



Swimming lessons for YEP youth

## Shreveport Regional Office

### Congratulations

**PPO 1 Charles Davis** was named **Employee of the Month** for March. Charles works many tireless, long hours coordinating and providing transportation assistance.

**PPS Rick Ladner** was recognized for his outstanding leadership efforts. He received the Regional Manager's Excellence in Leadership Award from **RM Kristi Martin**.

### Welcome

Shreveport OJJ welcomes new members of the team:

**PPO 1/J Richard Dukes**

**PPO 1/J Alan Glover Jr.**

**PPOs John Whitlock, Steve Martino, Daniel Barnard, Charles Herrmann, and Tish Juneau** attended training sponsored by the U.S Department of Justice, covering the Characteristics of Armed Persons, Federal Firearms Laws and Firearms Identification Procedures.

### Congratulations

Shreveport OJJ is proud to recognize probation staff who recently received well-deserved promotions to PPO 3/J positions: (pictured below)

**Steve Martino, Natalie Pope and Charles Herrmann**



## Swanson Center for Youth

By **Vincent Butcher, Sr., M.R.E.**  
**Therapeutic Recreation Specialist 3**

In March, SCY traveled to JCY to participate in a basketball tournament that included teams from all three facilities. I want to go on record and say in spite of losing to JCY by two points, I would like to compliment and thank the youth and staff of SCY for demonstrating good sportsmanship. JCY staff told us "Y'all won the last one but you will not win in our house."

Also in March, SCY hosted its annual basketball tournament. JCY and (provider) Cool Spring participated in the tournament. SCY's junior varsity team played Cool Spring and our varsity team played JCY. SCY was victorious over JCY with a score of 86-70.

The SCY JV team played Cool Spring twice, losing both games with scores of 53-51 and 60- 58.

Hats off to **Coach Gwen Gene** who coached SCY in the win over JCY. Coach Gene is the first female to coach the basketball team at SCY.

All team members were treated to grilled hamburgers and hotdogs, compliments of our Recreation Department.

**Below are photos from the event, featuring the Recreation Department staff.**



## A Success Story from Thibodaux OJJ

**Mason K**, who completed probation last December, has signed a scholarship to continue his education and play football for University of Central Arkansas in Conway, Arkansas. He is a senior at St. James High School, and will graduate in May. He was supervised by **PPO Heidi Brown**.

## Thibodaux Regional Office

### Congratulations

**PPO2 Herman Matherne** was selected Employee of the Month.

### Welcome

Welcome to our team, social worker, **Reshonn Saul**, and new probation officers, **PPO1 Terssa Gros** and **PPO1 Myron Theriot**.

# The Inside Scoop...of

**The Inside Scoop...of OJJ** is published monthly to communicate with and about OJJ staff in offices and facilities throughout the state, about agency activities, happenings and items of interest.

**The Inside Scoop...of OJJ** is produced by the Central Office SPEAK staff with input from staff statewide.

## ...until next

### OJJ Administrative Team

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Prince E. Gray, Jr., Assistant Secretary  
James Bueche, Undersecretary  
Paula (Merrick) Roddy, Deputy Undersecretary  
Carolyn B. Lewis, Dep. Asst. Sec., Community Based Services  
Philippe Magloire, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Facilities  
Ellyn Peterson, Chief of Operations/Dep. Asst. Sec., CQIS  
Michelle Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Special Projects  
Marlyn Goins-McCants, Family & Community Liaison  
Kim B. Mims, Director of Education  
Martha Morgan, General Counsel  
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Bridge City: Cassandra Washington & Monique Jones  
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Hammond: Courtney Pegues  
Jetson: Daron Brown  
Lafayette/Opelousas: Kevin Broussard  
Lake Charles: Melissa Cross  
Monroe: Gail Wilson  
Natchitoches: Rosa Brownlee  
New Orleans: Paulette Carter & Judy Warren  
Shreveport: Kimberly Waddles  
Swanson: Linda Harrell  
Tallulah: LaJuana Harrell  
Thibodaux: Allison Lirrette

### **SPEAK (Special Projects, Expertise and Knowledge)**

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Fran Martin, Director of Staff Development  
Shaeki Shanklin – Administrative Coordinator